kerosene oil in Delhi. The State has made efforts to identify non-genuine card holders and stopping supplies thereto. To prevent any diversion, action has been taken against the dealers indulging in malpractices including diversion.

Guidelines regarding posting of officers with Ministers

315. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are some guidelines that Ministers and officers on deputation should not be from the same State;

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that appointments at higher levels in 1999-2000 are flagrantly in violation of these guidelines;

(d) the number of Ministries where officers from the same State to that of Minister have been selected; and

(e) the steps proposed to reverse this trend in public interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING AND DEPARTMENT OF PENSION AND PENSIONERS' WELFARE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) and (b) There are no such guidelines.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to parts (a) & (b) of the question.

(d) Officers of All India Services (AIS) namely, Indian Administrative Services (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS), and Indian Forest Service (IFS) are brone on different States Cadres. During the period from 1.4.99 to 1.3.2000, 214 All India Services officers were appointed in different Ministries/ Departments. Out of them, 42 officers appointed in 26 Ministries / Departments were borne on the cadres of the States to which the Ministers of the those Ministries belonged. Of these 42 officers, 30 were appointed as Private Secretaries or Officers on Special Duty to the Ministers.

(e) In view of the reply to parts (a) and (b) of the question, no steps are called for.